



## **REQUIRED REPORTABLE CONDITION: HEPATITIS B SURFACE ANTIGEN (HBsAg) POSITIVITY DURING PREGNANCY**

***Since December 2000, HBsAg-positive status during pregnancy has been a required reportable condition in Washington State. Health care providers are legally required to report to local health departments according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-101 within 3 working days.***

### **Why Report:**

- ◆ To prevent transmission of the hepatitis B virus from infected mothers to their infants, who are at very high risk of acquiring the infection and developing serious long-term sequelae unless post-exposure prophylaxis is given.
- ◆ Local public health department staff work with private providers to assure that:
  - Mothers are counseled about prevention of the infection to their infants and household/sexual contacts and referred to specialist for follow-up;
  - Infants receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B vaccine dose 1 at birth, second dose at 1-2 months of age, and third dose at 6 months of age;
  - Infants receive post vaccine testing (HBsAg and anti-HBs) 3-9 months after the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine to assess infectivity and immune status; and
  - Household/sexual contacts receive pre-vaccination testing and immunization with hepatitis B vaccine, if susceptible.

### **When to Report:**

At any time during **each** pregnancy in which the pregnant woman tests HBsAg positive. It is the responsibility of the provider to assure that the delivery hospital is informed of an HBsAg-positive mother prior to delivery so that appropriate treatment is provided to the infant.

**For further questions, please contact your local health department or the Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program at (360) 236-3595.**